

and high schools in Tallahatchie County, and was most recently named the 2011 Tallahatchie School District Parent of the Year.

She volunteers her time and energy to her local Boys and Girls Club, in an effort to help educate and deter the youth from engaging in counterproductive activities such as joining gangs and committing violence in their schools and communities.

She works in conjunction with the Mississippi State Department of Health to organize speaking engagements and forums on gangs and violence in Tallahatchie, Panola, Quitman, Sunflower, and Coahoma counties.

Mrs. Powell believes that parents, teachers, and community members should work together and maintain strong lines of communication in an effort to ensure that the students of today receive adequate education and training to thrive in an ever changing world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Donnie Powell for her many contributions to education and serving her community.

HONORING SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
WILSON "BILL" LIVINGOOD

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, next month this House will lose a dedicated public servant. Wilson "Bill" Livingood, our Sergeant at Arms, will retire after seventeen years keeping us safe. Since 1995, he has stood watch over the People's House and all of its members, staff, and visitors, overseeing the security of this chamber, the Capitol, and Congressional office buildings.

Under Bill's leadership, the House has adapted its security measures to meet new challenges faced since September 11. He has been a driving force in enhancing screening procedures while ensuring that Americans can still easily visit the Capitol and meet with their representatives.

Bill Livingood's life has been spent in service to our nation and to protecting the institutions of our democracy. Before his long service as Sergeant at Arms, Bill was an agent of the U.S. Secret Service for thirty-three years, placing his life on the line to protect our commander-in-chief.

While I have no doubt that the strong voice with which Bill has welcomed U.S. presidents and foreign dignitaries into the House chamber has become iconic, I believe he will be remembered here most for his warmth and kind-spirit and for his deep love of country. I have been fortunate to call him a friend and can attest to the attention and respect he commands from all who have known him. It has been a pleasure serving with Bill throughout his tenure, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

I join with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in thanking Bill for his long career of distinguished service to the people of the United States and, in particular, to their House.

CONGRATULATING THE LINN HIGH
SCHOOL WILDCATS BOYS CROSS
COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Linn High School Wildcats Boys Cross Country team for winning the Class 1 Missouri State Championship.

The young men and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the state cross country championship to their school and community. The boys have relied on each other throughout the season, providing one another with encouragement and displaying true team spirit. They won by a mere one point, proving that all seven boys were truly needed in securing the victory.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Linn Wildcats for a hard fought victory and a job well done.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,068,133,903,969.13. We've added \$10,266,728,728,674.85 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF
KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF
THAILAND

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations and best wishes to the world's longest serving monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, on the occasion of his 84th birthday this past Monday, December 5th. King Bhumibol is beloved by his people and esteemed for his great humility, compassion and proactive engagement with everyday Thais.

King Bhumibol has spent decades in virtually every corner of Thailand, engaging with the Thai people face-to-face, seeking new and improved ways to make their lives better. Since the early years of his now 65-year reign, he has been mindful of the livelihood of farmers and others dependent on agriculture. He made water management a key priority in royal development projects, with the first such project initiated in 1963. Taking a holistic ap-

proach, the King's projects also sought to ensure local residents understand the importance of proper water management to avoid flooding, droughts and pollution.

The King has also promoted sustainable agricultural practices along with soil resource management, to maximize economic success in rural areas and to help farmers become self-reliant. His economic advice based on the "Sufficiency Economy" philosophy, which calls on individuals and businesses to practice moderation and reasonableness, and seek self-immunity against external factors in their pursuit of growth, has been embraced by rural farmers and private businesses alike.

Agriculture, environmental conservation and sustainable development are among the many other areas of King Bhumibol's initiatives to contribute to the progress of Thailand and its people. During the 1960s and 1970s, the King developed an opium crop substitution program that encourages hilltribe people to grow cash crops so that they abandon the drug trade. His initiatives on health—started even earlier in the 1950s—helped Thailand's efforts to eradicate and combat diseases such as leprosy, cholera, tuberculosis and smallpox. These and the scholarship programs he created to support Thais to study medicine and medical advancement overseas have contributed to the development of the country's public health system—today one of the most advanced in Southeast Asia.

King Bhumibol's values, initiatives, and passion for improving life for all Thais have earned him the respect of the people of Thailand. He has also been recognized internationally for his unique leadership, which has uplifted the people of Thailand during difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join the people of Thailand—America's friend and oldest treaty ally in Asia—as they pay tribute to King Bhumibol and celebrate his 84th birthday this week.

HONORING MR. JEREMIAH JOSEPH
O'KEEFE FOR HIS CONTRIBU-
TIONS AND SERVICE TO COMMU-
NITY AND COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a World War II hero, entrepreneur, philanthropist and outstanding public servant, Mr. Jeremiah "Jerry" Joseph O'Keefe.

A native of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Jeremiah Joseph O'Keefe was born July 12, 1923, in a gracious antebellum home constructed by his grandfather. When Jeremiah O'Keefe was 13 years old, the family lost their home during the Depression and relocated to Biloxi, Mississippi. In Biloxi, Mr. O'Keefe attended Sacred Heart Academy high school, where during his senior year he was co-captain of the school's football team.

Mr. O'Keefe was attending Soule Business College when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941 and he quickly offered to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Navy. He would join the Aviation Cadet Program of the United States Navy in June 1942,